GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2909
ANSWERED ON:17.12.2008
QUALITY OF INDIAN TRADITIONAL MEDICINES
Gaikwad Shri Eknath Mahadeo;Mane Smt. Nivedita;Yadav Shri Anirudh Prasad (Sadhu);Yaskhi Shri Madhu Goud

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received complaints regarding sub-standard quality of these drugs from any overseas country which imported Indian traditional drugs;

(b) if so,the details thereof;and

(c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE(SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) & (b): No,Sir.

(c): Govt. have taken following steps to ensure the safety and quality of Ayurvedic,Siddha and Unani medicines (ASU):

i. Mandatory testing for heavy metals has been introduced w.e.f. 01.01.2006 for herbal Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani medicines (ASU) which are being exported.This has been done to meet the regulatory requirements of importing countries.

ii. State Drug Licensing Authorities have been directed to ensure full compliance by all Ayurvedic, Siddha and Unani (ASU) drug manufacturers with the provisions of Rule 161 (1) and (2) relating to displaying on the label of the container or in a leaflet to be inserted in the package of any Ayurvedic, Siddha and Unani (ASU) drugs,a list of all the ingredients along with quantities used in the manufacture of the preparation.

iii. Captain Shreeniwasmurti Drug Research Institute for Ayurveda,Chennai,Indian Institute of Toxicological Research,Lucknow and Sri Ram Institute for Industrial Research, New Delhi have analyzed about 600 plants and it was found that lead arsenic and mercury levels were within the permissible limit.

iv. Good Manufacturing Practices have been made mandatory for all Ayurveda,Siddha and Unani drug (ASU) manufacturing units in the country through an amendment of Schedule T of Drugs and Cosmetics Rules,1945.